



Vietnam: America Fights a New Kind of War

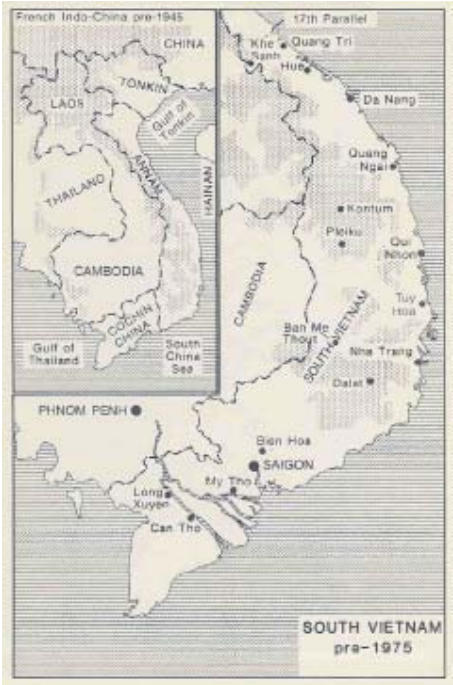
Origins of the Conflict

Not since the Civil War did an event tear apart America the way the Vietnam conflict did. The longest and costliest war in our history divided the nation and shook society to the core.

After World War II America became involved in Vietnam by giving aid to the French who colonized the area they named “French Indo China.” During the Second World War, Japan occupied Vietnam and the communist under Ho Chi Minh aided America and her allies in the fight to win the war. Ho believed his country would gain independence but France would return and Vietnam would continue to fight for freedom. The struggle against the French would continue until 1954 when Vietminh forces won a stunning victory at Dien Bien Phu. The country would be partitioned into two separate nations with the dividing line at the 17th parallel.

America feared the entire area would fall to the communists if they gained a foothold in Vietnam so military and

economic aid began to flow into the region. By 1960 the United States had several advisors training the South Vietnamese army, hoping with enough aid they could survive against the Viet Cong insurgents and the Peoples Army of North Vietnam, or PAVN.



“It was startling to me to find out that we had no military plan to win the war....It was a real loser.”

US Secretary of Defense
Clark Clifford

The War Escalates

By 1965 it became apparent the South Vietnamese could not defeat the combined forces from the north, so “Americanization” began. Combat troops began to arrive from the United States and take command of operations from the Vietnamese. As the war escalated more troops were sent from the states and from her allies to stem the flow of insurgents from the north.

Allied commanders underestimated the resolve of the communist forces and the war dragged on into 1968. In January of that year the PAVN and Viet Cong launched the largest offensive of the war during the Lunar New Year, or Tet. It was obvious the war was going to continue for

years to come. At home, discontent among the citizens spilled into the streets and on college campuses as draft resisters protested the war. Embroiled in a quagmire it could not get out of, America stepped up the bombing campaign against Hanoi and Haiphong, hoping to force Ho Chi Minh to the negotiating table.



And throughout the war we never lost a battle.”

General William Westmorland

The Miserable End

After all efforts failed to bring the war to a close, a program of “Vietnamization” began. This meant the South Vietnamese would take over the war while America began a slow withdrawal of combat troops and most would be gone by 1973; American air support would continue until 1975 when Vietnam came under communist control.

The longest war in American history came to an end without a victory. For the first time the population realized we could not always win. Servicemen returned home and experienced hostility from friends

and neighbors. The war had divided many families just as the Civil War had. The cost had been high. Over 58,000 Americans had lost their lives, another 365,000 were wounded. The United States had spent over 150 billion dollars in a losing cause. After the war, we saw our military and political machines go through a process of evolution, hoping to prevent a similar situation developing in the future. Today we honor the survivors of this war just as we do those from other conflicts, hoping we will never become involved in another war so long and costly.



Main Head

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This is an example of a “Head-B”
Sub heads are set in 9/12 NPS Rawlinson Two, bolded and are labeled “Head-B” in the document’s styles menu. There is no line space after a sub head. *Italics* and **bolds** must be set manually as NPS Rawlinson, italicized and

NPS Rawlinson Two, bolded. The rest of this is dummy text. Another Library bicentennial project is under way to raise the funds and rebuild his library. Through a vast search, the Library is making an effort to replace missing volumes.

All the replaced books will be featured in the exhibition. At the same time, an admirable effort is under way to digitize the voluminous Jefferson Papers and put them onto the Library’s American Memory web site.

Main Head

Dummy text. What is less well known to the general public is that almost two-thirds of Jefferson’s original collection of books was destroyed in a disastrous fire on Christmas Eve of 1851. While many of those volumes have subsequently been replaced, there are still hundreds of titles missing.

Another Library bicentennial project is under way to raise the necessary funds and rebuild Jefferson’s library. Through a worldwide search, the Library is making every effort to replace the missing volumes

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This is dummy text. In 1776 Jefferson sounded the call for freedom in the Declaration of Independence with words that have come to symbolize liberty and equality to millions of people around the world. Jefferson’s and America’s declaration:

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty...

From the French Declaration of the Rights of Man, to Masaryk’s Declaration of Independence, to freedom’s cries from Tianenmen Square, Jefferson’s

words are still a signal for arousing men to assume the blessings and security of self-government. The illustrated biography, with essays by leading scholars, is the companion volume to the Library’s exhibition on Jefferson. Another Library bicentennial project is under way. Indeed, the Library of Congress is one of Jefferson’s principal legacies.

The wide range of his interests determined the universal and diverse nature of the Library’s collections and services. Another Library bicentennial project is under way. Indeed, the Library of Congress is one of Thomas Jefferson’s principal legacies. The wide range of his interests determined the universal and diverse nature of the Library’s collec-

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